



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **April, 2015**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

Individuals or agencies sending press releases quoted here are entirely responsible for the accuracy of their information.

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Green Power

[Meet the Challenges of a Changing Climate](#)

The Climate Resilience Toolkit provides resources and a framework for understanding and addressing the climate issues that impact people and their communities.

In response to the [President's Climate Action Plan](#) and [Executive Order](#) to help the nation prepare for climate-related changes and impacts, U.S. federal government agencies, led by the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Council on Environmental Quality, gathered resources that can help people take action to build their climate resilience. The impacts of climate change—including higher temperatures, heavier downpours, more frequent and intense droughts, wildfires, and floods, and sea level rise—are affecting communities, businesses, and natural resources across the nation.

Source: U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit, 4/29/15

[EPA Releases Updated Top Green Power Partner Lists](#)

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership released updated lists of the top Green Power Partners that are choosing to use electricity from clean, renewable sources.

Top 100

New to the National Top 100 list are: H&M (No. 32), the City of Portland, OR (No. 61), Rackspace US Inc. (No. 71), SoftLayer, an IBM Company (No. 88) and Motorola Solutions, Inc. (No. 96). Intel Corporation continues to top the list, using more than three billion kilowatt-hours (kWh) of green power annually to cover 100 percent of its electricity load.

Other Top List Debuts

Green Power Partners debuting on other Top Lists include:

- Top 10 Federal: U.S. Department of Agriculture (No. 10)
- Top 30 Retail: Chop't Creative Salad Company (No. 29)
- Top 30 College & University: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (No. 28)
- Top 30 On-site Generation: General Motors/GMVM Ft. Wayne (No. 6), Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation Authority (No. 26)
- Top 30 Local Government: Yolo County, CA (No. 29), City of Lacey, WA (No. 30)
- Top 30 Tech & Telecom: Green House Data (No. 29)
- Top 30 K-12 Schools: The Spence School (No. 14)

Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 4/27/15

[USDA receives honors for Rural Energy for America Program at Distributed Wind Conference](#)

The Windustry Board of Directors along with a Peer Group of professionals who work in Community and Distributed Wind today presented the Community Wind Distinguished Service Award. This award is given annually to a person or program that has made exceptionally significant contributions, over several years, to the establishment and growth of locally owned and distributed wind as a uniquely valuable form of clean, renewable energy.

The US Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) is the recipient of this award for 2015. We are recognizing the notable effort of many people with outstanding dedication, excellence and achievement with new approaches and business models to further community and

distributed wind energy. This exemplary program's efforts have creatively addressed challenges and broken new ground in making community and distributed wind renewable energy accessible to all.

[Read more](#) about how REAP supports renewable energy development and energy efficiency projects.

Source: Windustry, 4/18/15

[Earth Day 2015: New Guidance to Protect Environment, Develop Wind Energy](#)

Federal agencies team up to strengthen environmental protection while developing wind energy resources in the Upper Great Plains

The Western Area Power Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service teamed up to develop an innovative, standardized and streamlined environmental review process for wind energy projects. The Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement allows wind developers in the Upper Great Plains to address specific environmental concerns in a consistent way.

"This is an exciting development, just in time for Earth Day," said Western CEO and Administrator Mark Gabriel. "Signing off on the final environmental review today is encouraging for the environment, energy industry and government. The proposed guidance will ensure strong environmental protection of our natural resources and support development of renewable, clean energy options."

Source: Western Area Power Administration, 4/22/15

[Register for National Geothermal Summit](#)

June 3-4, 2015

**Grand Sierra Resort and Casino
Reno, Nevada**

The only thing better than attending the fifth annual [National Geothermal Summit](#) is getting a discount on your registration for the premier forum of the geothermal industry. Get in on that great deal by [registering](#) before April 17 to receive the early-bird discount for *Geothermal Policies as Stimulus for Economic Growth and Environmental Quality*.

Source: Geothermal Energy Association, 3/25/15

Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.

Reports and Studies

[Despite flawed assumptions, NERC analysis finds Clean Power Plan achievable](#)

A report released today by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) found that the Clean Power Plan can be met with modest changes in the generation mix. The required changes, chiefly displacing coal generation with cleaner alternatives, are actually less aggressive than the generation mix change trajectory we have seen over the last decade as the cost of cleaner energy sources like renewable energy and natural gas has declined. In fact, the coal power plant retirements NERC projects between now and 2030 will be more than offset by the nearly 50 GW of new gas generating capacity that is already planned for addition between now and 2020. NERC finds that the Clean Power Plan would only increase coal plant retirements during 2016-2020 from an already planned 33.5 GW to between 41 and 43 GW, an increase of fewer than 10 GW.

Source: American Wind Energy Association, 4/21/15

State-federal RPS Collaborative Newsletter now available

The RPS Newsletter provides periodic updates about the programs and accomplishments of the State Federal Renewable Portfolio Standards Collaborative.

The State-Federal RPS Collaborative was established to advance dialogue and cooperation among a broad network of government officials, NGO experts, and industry representatives. The State-Federal RPS Collaborative is managed by the Clean Energy States Alliance.

In this issue

New RPS Collaborative Report

- [Renewable Thermal in RPSs](#)

Upcoming Webinars

- [RPS Collaborative Webinar: Updates from Connecticut and Wisconsin](#)
- [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#)
- [Renewable Energy Certificate Tracking Systems: An Introduction](#)

Publications of Interest

- [Michigan Renewable Resource Assessment](#)
- [Value of Solar](#)
- [Using Renewables to Comply with EPA's Clean Power Plan](#)

News from around the Country

- [An RPS repeal effort failed in North Carolina when a repeal measure failed to pass a House committee.](#)
- [The Texas Senate voted to end the state's RPS. The legislation is now moving on to the House for consideration.](#)
- [RPS advocates believe this could be the year when problems with the Illinois RPS will be fixed by the legislature, strengthening that program.](#)
- [The Montana legislature passed a bill to allow existing hydropower to qualify for the state's Renewable Energy Standard.](#)

Source: Clean Energy States Alliance, 4/27/15

Introducing the New EnergyFactCheck

Clean energy has reached an inflection point, and how we discuss it and how we deploy it will never be the same. EnergyFactCheck reflects this new reality.

EnergyFactCheck is a resource for journalists, policymakers and others engaged in the debate over clean and renewable energy. Its purpose is to educate, inform and share perspectives in real time.

EnergyFactCheck is designed to help ensure both sides of the story are told by responding to inaccuracies and misrepresentations with the facts on an industry that is popular, productive, growing and essential to America's economy, energy independence and national security.

Source: American Council on Renewable Energy, 4/27/15

Energy Department Issues New Report, Highlights the Success and Potential of American Hydropower

In support of the President's all-of-the-above energy strategy, today at the National Hydropower Association Annual Conference, Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson announced the release of the 2014 Hydropower Market Report, the first ever report to quantify the current size, scope, and variability of our nation's hydropower supplies. Hydropower currently provides approximately seven percent of the U.S. electricity supply—enough to power more than 20 million homes, and has experienced significant growth industry-wide. Within the last decade, the industry has supported more than 55,000 direct domestic jobs across the country, and helped offset 200 million metric tons of carbon emissions per year, equivalent to the emissions from more than 42 million passenger vehicles. The report also highlights how hydropower can be rapidly integrated with other renewable energy sources into the electric grid—contributing to the Administration's goal of doubling our nation's renewable energy supply again by 2020.

Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 4/27/15

Today's energy mix in the U.S. is radically different from that of a generation ago

The 2015 edition of the Sustainable Energy in America Factbook – produced for the Business Council for Sustainable Energy by Bloomberg New Energy Finance, provides up-to-date, accurate market intelligence about the broad range of industries — energy efficiency, renewable energy and natural gas — that are contributing to the country's move towards cleaner energy production and more efficient energy usage.

Source: Business Council for Sustainable Energy, 4/21/15

New Toolkit to Help Local Governments with Solar Financing

In an effort to reduce solar soft costs and assist local governments and other public entities seeking to install and finance rooftop solar systems, IREC has developed a comprehensive toolkit on retail solar power purchase agreements (PPAs). This detailed, uniquely informative resource was released today and is available for download at no charge.

IREC's new PPA toolkit is designed to help overcome the common challenges and costs associated with PPAs by providing a full suite of resources in a highly user-friendly format. With the addition of a [free webinar](#) and forthcoming toolkit workshops, IREC will supplement the toolkit with hands-on training to empower municipal entities that seek to utilize solar PPAs. The end goal, in line with the DOE SunShot Initiative goals, is to simplify, streamline and reduce costs for solar.

Source: Interstate Renewable Energy Council, 4/13/15

Fact Sheet: Polling the American Public on Climate Change (2015)

This fact sheet provides information on climate change polling in the United States over the last eight months from a variety of sources. Overall the studies show:

- The number of Americans saying that climate change is happening and is caused by human actions continues to rise, but still has not reached a level comparable to the 2007 peak.
- There is a disparity among party lines when it comes to climate change, with a large majority of Democrats believing that human actions are changing the climate, while fewer Republicans hold the same belief. However, strong majorities of self-described liberal and moderate Republicans say climate change is happening.

- There is bipartisan support for the federal government to regulate greenhouse gases.

Source: Environmental and Energy Study Institute, 4/10/15

[DOE interactive maps teach energy lessons](#)

Check out these interactive maps to learn about renewable energy development, energy production and use, technology and more.

Source: Department of Energy, 4/8/15

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

Funding

[Find resources to help finance renewables project](#)

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory's (NREL) Project Finance team conducts research, performs analysis, and produces content aimed to inform decision makers in the renewable energy field. We cover topics ranging from:

- project-level finance (terms, structures, and innovations);
- renewable energy policy at the national, state and municipal level;
- state-of-the-market for most commercial and some emerging renewable
- technologies; and
- high renewable penetration scenarios.

Our audience includes: potential and existing investors in renewable energy generation projects; utilities and their regulators; policymakers; and DOE program managers. Renewable energy project finance is a very dynamic field, and as such we strive to provide up-to-date reporting and analysis that tracks market and political developments. Our team members bring a diversity of backgrounds and experience, which uniquely qualifies us for this mission.

Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 4/12/15

[Grant Program to Assess, Evaluate, and Promote Development of Tribal Energy and Mineral Resources](#)

IEED Energy and Mineral Development Program Grants

Applications Due: June 23, 2015

Indian tribes and tribal energy resource development organizations may submit grant proposals for projects that assess, evaluate, or otherwise promote processing, using or developing energy and mineral resources on Indian lands. Grant awards are subject to the availability of funds as appropriated by Congress and allotted to Indian Energy and Economic Development program. Evaluation of applications will promote community-scale energy development. Local-impact power generation promotes sovereignty; energy independence; security; reliability; diversification; environmental benefits; sustainability; and stronger Native economies.

Submit grant proposals [email](#), Attention: Bernie Toyekoyah. Proposals can also be mailed to Bernie Toyekoyah at 1 Mile North on Highway 281, P.O. Box 368, Anadarko, OK 73005, but must be received by the **June 23 deadline**.

Please send questions about the application process to [Rebecca Naragon](#) at 202-208-4401.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 4/2/15

Grant Program to Build Tribal Energy Development Capacity

Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grant Program (select opportunity number BIA-TEDC-15-FA-0002)

Applications Due: June 29, 2015

The Indian Energy and Economic Development program is soliciting grant proposals from Indian tribes to build tribal capacity for energy resource development or management under DOI's Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) grant program. The TEDC program provides the tools needed to regulate and/or maximize the economic impact of energy development for federally recognized tribes.

Funding is provided for two critical capacity-developing activities:

- To build capacity by establishing organizational and business entity structure able to lease property, meet lending requirements, enter into standard business contracts and form joint venture partnerships, among other activities;
- To provide funding to develop or enhance key regulatory activities, including establishing tribal policies, enacting tribal regulations for leasing surface land for energy development, establishing legal infrastructure for business formation, enactment of ordinances related to regulating and developing energy resources, and adopting a secured transactions code with the state to register liens attached pursuant to the code.

Submit grant proposals [email](#), Attention: Bernie Toyekoyah. If you have questions about the application process, please contact Bernie Toyekoyah at 405-247-1652.

Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 4/2/15

Find more [funding sources](#).